...WAS ME.
THE "KING" WRITING ALL THOSE LETTERS...
WHA...

I DIDN'T KNOW I... ...WAS DOING...
THE LETTERS THAT CAUSED SO MUCH CARNAGE.
WHA... WHAT'RE YOU SAYING?
EVERY SINGLE ONE CAME FROM ME.
IT...
MY MIND—CAN
I DRAGGED OUR WHOLE VILLAGE INTO THE KING'S GAME.
THE VIRUS HAD CONTROL OF ME
HA—
HANG ON.

NATSUKO WAS THE ONE WRITING THOSE LETTERS?
SHE'S THE CULPRIT EVERYONE WAS FRANTICALLY SEARCHING FOR?
NATSUKO...?
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE REALIZED IT, RIGHT?
HOW DO YOU KNOW THE VIRUS WAS MANIPULATING YOU?
I-I KNOW MICHIKO AND HER GANG SUSPECTED IT WAS YOU...
—BUT IT COULD'VE BEEN ANYONE—
IT WAS ME.
THERE WERE A LOT OF TIMES WHEN I'D BLACK OUT..
...AND THE NEXT LETTER WOULD APPEAR SOON AFTER.
I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM AFTER THEY PUSHED ME OFF THE CLIFF

I WROTE THE LETTERS.
ME!
DRIP
DRIP
BUT EVEN THEN THE LETTERS KEPT COMING...
SO MANY PEOPLE DIED.
THAT'S NOT ALL NOT EVEN CLOSE
YOU JUST WROTE THE LETTERS WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS. THAT'S ALL!
O-OKAY, EVEN IF THE VIRUS WAS CONTROLLING YOU...
...NONE OF IT'S YOUR FAULT!

I WAS THE ONE WHO INFECTED EVERYBODY IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WHAT...
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
NO ONE'S EVER SEEN THIS VIRUS BEFORE, REMEMBER?

THINK BACK.
THE VIRUS...
...COMES FROM MY FAMILY'S STORE HOUSE
REMEMBER WHEN I HAD THAT ARGUMENT WITH MY MOM AND LOCKED MYSELF UP IN THERE?
Y-YEAH, THE DAY WE WERE OUT PICKING MUSHROOMS
WHAT ABOUT IT?
薬庫
SIGN. STOREHOUSE
I CURLED UP IN THE BACK ROOM AND CRIED MY EYES OUT...

SNIFF SNIFF
BECAUSE SHE... BECAUSE ALL OF THEM..
WOULDN'T ACCEPT OUR LOVE..
I WAS ANGRY, I WAS SAD, I WAS FED UP...
AND I GOT EVEN BY SMASHING A POT. ONE MY MOM WARNED ME TO NEVER, EVER SO MUCH AS TOUCH
INSIDE THERE WAS THIS... THICK, MUDDY LIQUID...
AH!
GASP

I REMEMBER THE JAR FRAGMENTS...
AND HOW SOMETHING HAD SEEPED INTO THE FLOOR.
YOU'RE TELLING ME THE VIRUS WAS IN THAT POT?!
THERE'S NO OTHER EXPLANATION.
AFTER I BROKE IT, I GOT REALLY SICK AND SPIKED A HIGH FEVER.
THAT HAD TO BE WHEN I INFECTED THE REST OF THE VILLAGE.

THEN THEY'D USE THEIR OWN BLOOD, THEIR SKIN...
HAIR...
ORGANS...
URINE...
AND CREATE MIRACULOUS CURES FROM THEIR OWN BODIES FOR ALL KINDS OF DISEASES

IT... CAN'T BE..
BUT SORCERY'S NOT REAL
OUR FAMILY PRACTICED SORCERY FOR GENERATIONS.
THE NAME WAS JUST A COVER.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, THEY WERE CALLED "FLESH APOTHECARIES."
THEY'D CONSUME THE FLESH AND BLOOD OF PEOPLE STRICKEN BY ILLNESS...
...AND CULTIVATE A CURE INSIDE THEIR OWN BODIES

I READ EVERY-THING IN A JOURNAL SHE KEPT IN THERE.
THE JAR THAT I BROKE...
...HAS BEEN IN THE FAMILY FOR GENER-ATIONS. IT CONTAINED THE BLOOD OF MY AN-CESTORS...
...COMBINED WITH THE VENOM LEFT FROM A DEATH MATCH BETWEEN 32 OF THE MOST POISONOUS INSECTS IN THE WORLD.
THEY CREATED IT AS A MEANS TO KILL HUGE GROUPS OF PEOPLE.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHY THEY'D MAKE SUCH A HORRIBLE THING...
BUT...

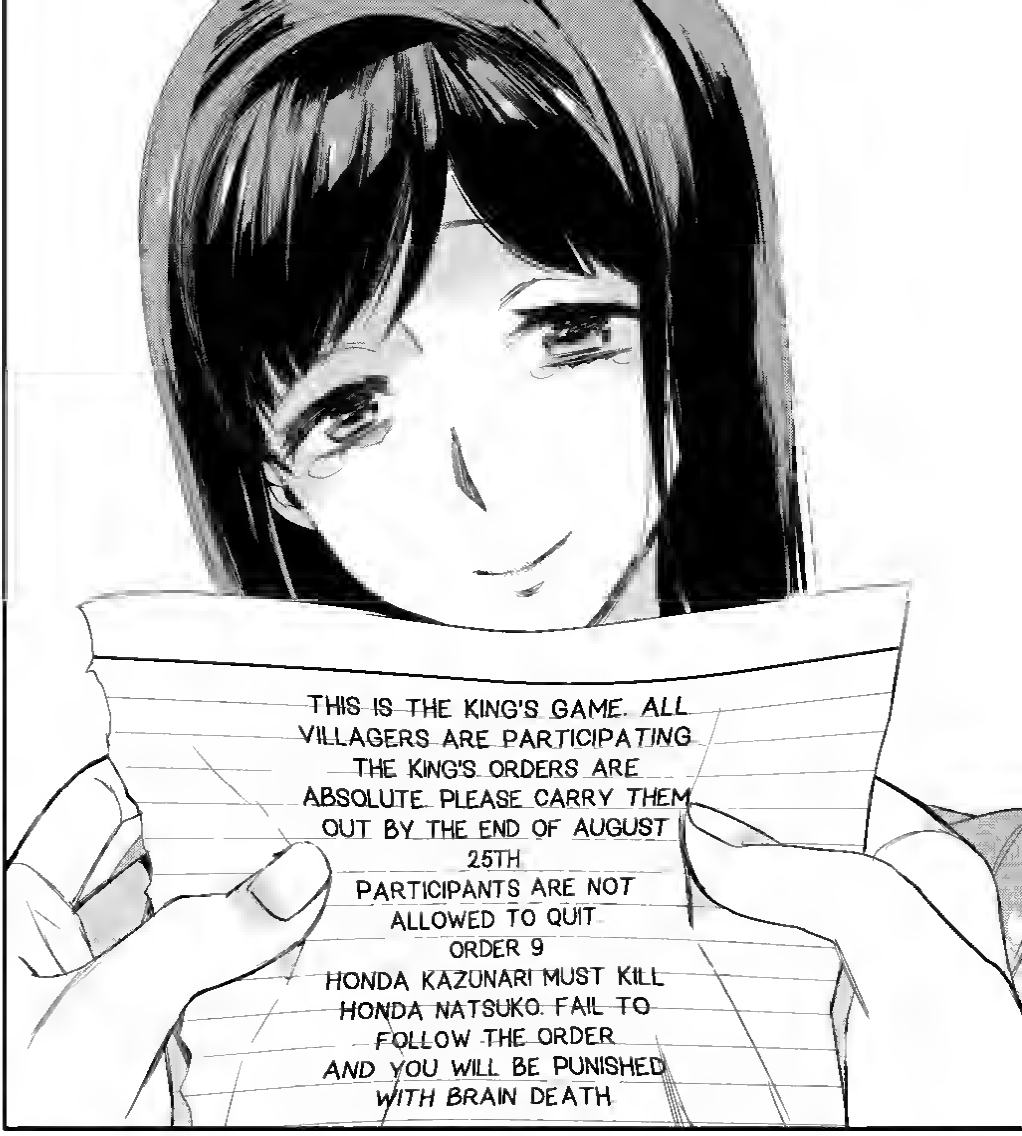
PITTING VILLAGER AGAINST VILLAGER IN FIGHTS TO THE DEATH.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE KING'S GAME WAS, RIGHT?

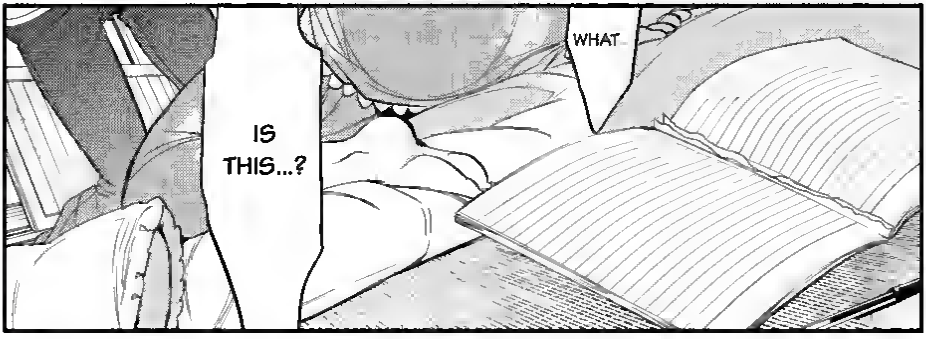
I THINK WHEN THE VIRUS INFECTED ME, IT GAINED HUMAN INTELLIGENCE. .
...AND THOUGHT UP MORE AND MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS TO MAKE US KILL EACH OTHER.
A VIRUS WITH A PURPOSE...
B-BUT WHY WOULD THE VIRUS WANT THAT?
IF WE'RE ALL DEAD, IT LOSES ITS HOSTS AND DIES WITH US, RIGHT?
I'M NOT SURE, BUT MAYBE...
IT'S TRYING TO EVOLVE.

BY CREATING A VICIOUS, MERCILESS SITUATION FOR ITSELF TO SURVIVE. LIKE HOW FORCING 32 VENOMOUS INSECTS TO FIGHT TO THE DEATH MADE A POISON STRONGER THAN ANY OF THEIRS ALONE.
EVEN STRONGER... EVEN MORE HORRIBLE...
THAT'S THE REASON...
WE'VE ALL BEEN MURDERING ONE ANOTHER...?
I... I RESENTED EVERYONE FOR NOT ACCEPTING US.
MAYBE WHEN THE VIRUS GAINED KNOWLEDGE...
..IT WAS INFLUENCED BY MY EMOTIONS AND STARTED THE KING'S GAME.
WHICH MAKES ME..
...THE KING.

IT CAN'T BE, RIGHT?
HOW COULD YOU HAVE KNOWN THERE WAS A VIRUS IN THAT POT? THAT IT WOULD DO ALL THIS?
NATSUKO...
EVEN IF EVERYTHING YOU'VE SAID IS TRUE...
IT'S STILL NOT YOUR FAULT.
I'M RIGHT!
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO'S AT FAULT ANY-MORE!
YOU'RE—
GRAB
YOU'RE WRONG
YOU DON'T NEED TO FEEL RESPON-SIBLE.

AS LONG AS WE CAN LIVE TOGETHER, I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY-THING ELSE
KAZU-NARI..
WE'RE ALIVE.
THAT'S ENOUGH FOR ME.
WE CAN'T.
RUSTLE
THE KING'S GAME..
...ISN'T OVER YET.


THIS IS THE KING'S GAME. ALL VILLAGERS ARE PARTICIPATING
THE KING'S ORDERS ARE ABSOLUTE. PLEASE CARRY THEM OUT BY THE END OF AUGUST 25TH
PARTICIPANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO QUIT
ORDER 9
HONDA KAZUNARI MUST KILL HONDA NATSUKO. FAIL TO FOLLOW THE ORDER AND YOU WILL BE PUNISHED WITH BRAIN DEATH


WHAT
IS THIS...?

I KNEW YOU'D SAY THAT, KAZUNARI.
BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT.
NEVER! I COULD NEVER DO THAT!
I'M THE ONE WHO'LL DIE.
I INFECTED EVERYONE WITH THIS HORRIBLE VIRUS. IT'S MY..
RE-SPON-SIBILITY.
SLUMP
MY LIFE..
MAY NOT BE ENOUGH... BUT IT'S ALL I HAVE.
YOU...
YOU DON'T SERIOUSLY THINK I'M GOING TO KILL YOU?
I TOLD YOU, IT'S ALL RIGHT.

...KILLED ME.
YOU'VE ALREADY...
YOU POISONED ME.
HACK-HACK-HACK
JUST A BIT EARLIER...
THROW IT UP! THROW IT UP!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
SO I SNUCK ONE OUT IN MY POCKET.
THE JOURNAL SAID IT BRINGS A HORRIBLE, PAINFUL DEATH.
IT WAS FROM THE STOREHOUSE. POISON THEY USED TO PUNISH SINNERS.
NUH-UH.
N-NO!
THAT WAS A PAIN PILL FROM THE DOCTOR!

I WANT THIS...
I'D...
HOW COULD YOU THINK...
THIS ISN'T FAIR!
IT'S... TOO LATE... KAZU-NARI.
WHY? WHY DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS?
KAZU-NARI... DON'T CRY.
FAVOR?
WRITTEN BY YOUR OWN WILL?
NATSU-KO.. WAS...
...WAS THIS ORDER..
I HAVE ONE...
...SMALL FAVOR..
BE-FORE IT ENDS...
I WAS SUPPOSED TO PROTECT NATSUKO.
I'M SO SORRY... ALL THIS HAP-PENED.
BUT I'M HAPPY... IT WAS YOU WHO SURVIVED.

KISS ME.
I'VE ALWAYS... WANTED TO...
BUT YOU PROBABLY DON'T...
I'M POI-SONED.. BLOOD'S DRIPPING OUT MY MOUTH..

I'M GLAD—
GLEICH...
COUGH COUGH
N-NATSU-KO!
ARE YOU IN PAIN?!
THANK YOU...
DON'T THANK ME, SILLY
I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF THE DAY WE'D KISS FOR SO LONG...

AH
ANGH
I'M SO HAPPY... WE MET...
AH... HA HA... PAIN... IS MY PEN-ANCE...
THROBBING
THROBBING
AAAAH
GACK
ENOUGH.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SUFFER!
K-KAZU-NARI...
THANK.. YOU..
CLUTCH
GRRRRK
IN THIS LIFE...

HUG
I CAN'T—
N-NAT-SUKO?
H-HEY...
FLOP
AND I ALWAYS ...
WILL... BE...

NO...
NO...
NOOOOOOO!!!
WHY... WHY...
AAAAH!
AAAAH!
AAAAH!
WHY DID NATSUKO HAVE TO SUFFER SO MUCH...
MAYBE NATSUKO DID BREAK THE POT WITH THE VIRUS INSIDE.
MAYBE SHE INFECTED THE WHOLE VILLAGE.
IF THEY'D JUST ACCEPTED OUR RELATIONSHIP NONE OF THIS WOULD'VE HAPPENED.
BUT THE VILLAGERS ARE THE ONES WHO BACKED HER INTO A CORNER.
EVERYONE... WOULD STILL BE ALIVE.

SACRIFICE YOUR-SELVES... AND RETURN HONDA NATSUKO TO LIFE.
I HATE THEM... I HATE THEM FOR FORCING HER INTO THIS.
NO... I'M JUST AS GUILTY.
SHE WAS SUFFERING ALL THIS TIME, AND I DID NOTHING.
I JUST STAYED OPTIMISTIC, SAYING IT'D ALL WORK OUT...
I SHOULD'VE REALIZED HOW SHE WAS FEELING INSIDE.
GRIND
IT'S ALL THEIR FAULT!
IT'S THEIR FAULT.
GIVE YOUR LIVES...

THURSDAY
AUGUST 25,
7:42 P.M.

AFTER THE KING'S GAME STARTED, THE VILLAGERS STARTED DYING ONE AFTER ANOTHER.
MY FATHER. MY GRANDMOTHER. MY FRIENDS.
AND...
THE GIRL I SWORE I'D PROTECT... ALL GONE.
WAS THIS THE ONLY WAY...
...IT COULD HAVE ENDED?

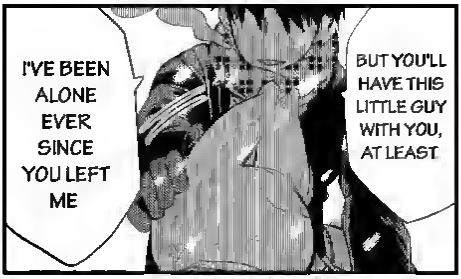
I'LL NEVER HEAR YOUR VOICE AGAIN...
THIS IS THE KING'S GAME
ALL VILLAGERS ARE PARTICIPATING.
THE KING'S ORDERS ARE ABSOLUTE. PLEASE CARRY THEM OUT TODAY
PARTICIPANTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO QUIT
ORDER 10 - THE FINAL SURVIVOR MUST EITHER CONTINUE THE KING'S GAME, OR BE PUNISHED.

KILL ME!
THERE'S NO POINT TO LIVING IN A WORLD WITHOUT NATSUKO ANYWAY.
GO TO HELL!
CRUSH
WHAT THE...?!
JUST KILL ME!

I WASN'T "PUNISHED" WITH DEATH.
I TRIED TO HANG MYSELF, BUT I FAILED
KRIEG
MAYBE NATSUKO WAS TRYING TO TELL ME "NOT YET."
THAT'S WHAT I THOUGHT.
MONDAY JANUARY 9, 9:12 A.M.

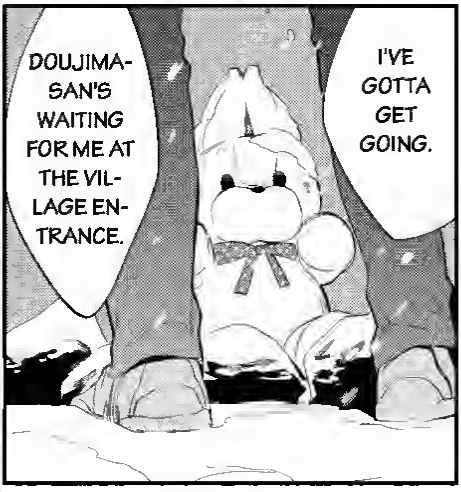
AFTERWARD...
GOOD MORNING, NATSUKO.
SNIFF
I'M HERE TO SAY GOODBYE ONE LAST TIME.
I BUILT A SMALL TORII GATE, AND BURIED HER THERE.
DOUJIMA-SAN AND MIYAZAWA-SAN CAME BY MY HOUSE YESTERDAY.
THEY SAID THEY'RE MOVING ME TO A QUARANTINE FACILITY AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN.
APPARENTLY THE VIRUS HAS MUTATED INSIDE ME...
...AND THERE'S A MUCH LOWER RISK OF SPREADING IT NOW.

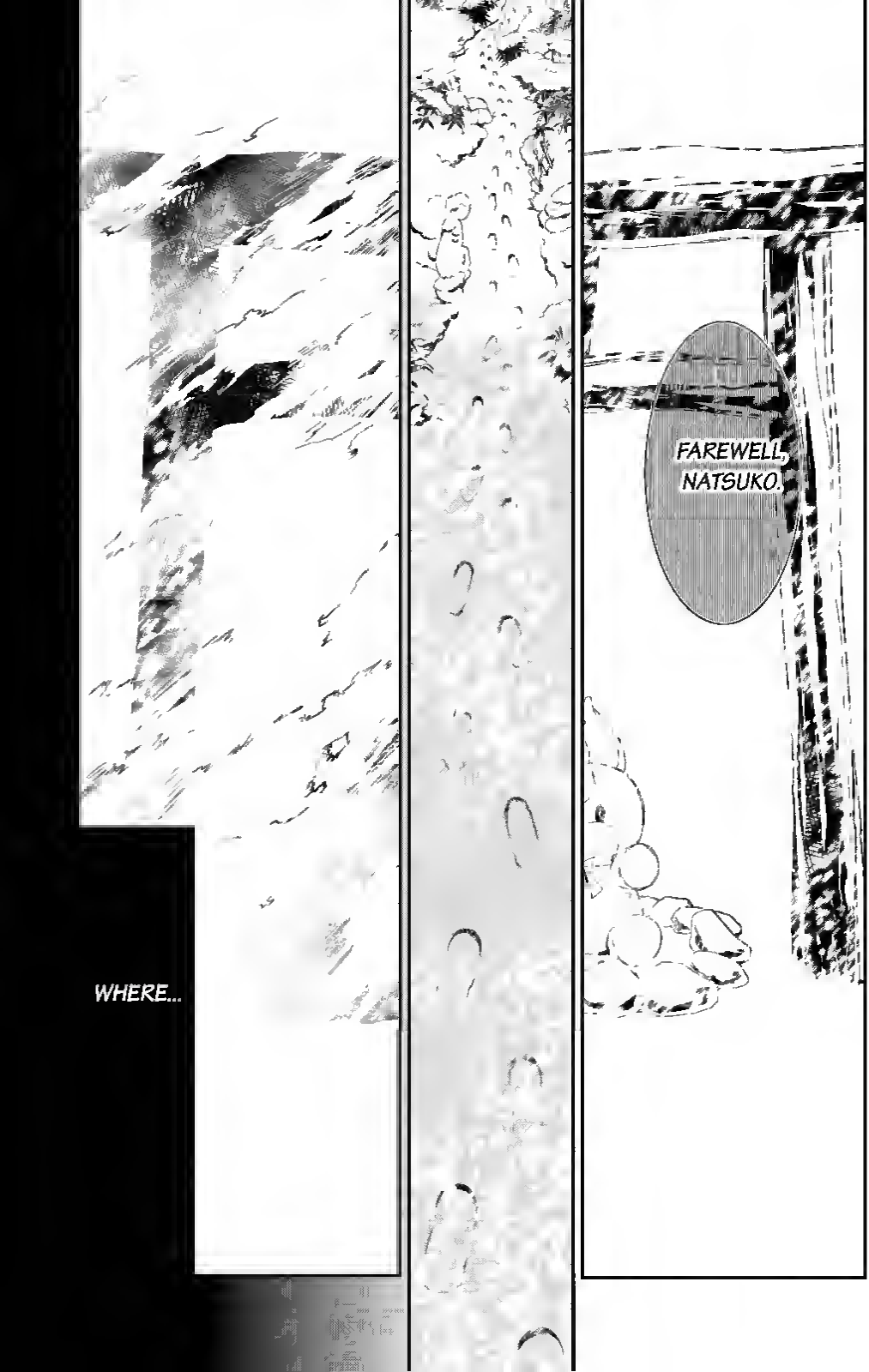
...INSTEAD OF NATSUKO AND THE OTHERS I LOST.
SO I'LL BE THEIR GUINEA PIG...
I COULDN'T STAND TO THINK OF HER BEING CARVED UP IN THE NAME OF "RESEARCH."
I CAN ACTUALLY HAVE HUMAN CONTACT AGAIN.
OF COURSE, IT'LL JUST BE FACILITY DOCTORS AND RESEARCHERS FOR A WHILE..
ALSO..
YONAKI VILLAGE IS GOING TO BE SEALED OFF.
THEY'RE PUTTING UP A HUGE CONCRETE BARRIER OVER THE ENTRANCE.
YOU CAN'T BLAME THEM AFTER SUCH A HUGE TRAGEDY...
I'M SORRY.
SO IT MIGHT BE A LONG TIME BEFORE I CAN VISIT YOU AGAIN


I'VE BEEN ALONE EVER SINCE YOU LEFT ME
BUT YOU'LL HAVE THIS LITTLE GUY WITH YOU, AT LEAST.

NATSU-KO...

SHAKE
SHAKE


DOUJIMA-SAN'S WAITING FOR ME AT THE VIL-LAGE EN-TRANCE.
I'VE GOTTA GET GOING.


FAREWELL, NATSUKO.
WHERE...

WHERE AM I?
A TORII GATE?
WAIT, THAT'S THE ONE I MADE—
NATSUKO! IT'S ME! KAZUNARI
NATSUKO, CAN'T YOU HEAR ME?!
HEY!

NATSUKO... WHY...
WHY'RE YOU CRYING?
WHAT'RE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?
NATSUKO!

...A DREAM.
WHY AM I DREAMING OF NATSUKO NOW?
I GREW UP, GOT A JOB IN SHIZUOKA WITH AN ELECTRONICS COMPANY...
IT'S BEEN 32 YEARS...
IT WAS OVER A YEAR AFTER NATSUKO'S DEATH BEFORE THEY RELEASED ME
AND BOY, DOES IT SHOW ON MY FACE.
THEY NEVER DID DEVELOP A VACCINE FOR THE VIRUS. AFTER REPEATED TESTS AND EXAMS...
...THEY DECLARED THE VIRUS INSIDE ME HAD GONE DORMANT.
THE RESEARCH TEAM WAS DISBANDED...
...AND I WAS RELEASED FROM GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE.
AND TRIED MY HARDEST TO FORGET THOSE HORRIBLE EXPERIENCES
SHIZUOKA
ATOM

MONDAY
OCTOBER 19,
7:06 A.M.

EVENTUALLY I MET A WOMAN, TAKAO RIE.
SHE SLOWLY BROKE DOWN THE WALLS I'D BUILT AROUND MY HEART UNTIL I FOUND MYSELF ABLE TO LOVE HER.
AND ONE DAY WE FOUND OURSELVES THE PARENTS OF TWIN GIRLS.
DAD!
GOOD MORNING, SLEEPYHEAD. BREAKFAST IS READY!
I'VE GOTTA GET TO SCHOOL, SO COME EAT!

...CHIEMI.
O-OH, SURE THING...

I NAMED THEM "CHIEMI" AND "NATSUKO."
NATSUKO... THE NAME OF THE WOMAN I'D ONCE LOVED.
BUT EVERY TIME I SAID HER NAME, MY CHEST GREW TIGHT... THE SHADOWS OF THE PAST CLAWING AT ME.
ONE DAY, IT BOILED OVER, AND I STRUCK LITTLE NATSUKO

DID YOUR MOM ALREADY LEAVE?
YUP! SHE SAID, "GIVE MY REGARDS TO YOUR SLEEPY FATHER!"
NOW, SHE LIVES IN HIROSHIMA, BEING RAISED BY MY MOTHER.
YOU'RE 48 NOW, DAD. DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD!
ONE AS PEACEFUL AND HAPPY AS YOUR SISTER CHIEMI.
YOU LOOK KINDA PALE, DAD.
ARE YOU STILL SICK FROM LAST WEEK?
I'M FINE. BESIDES, I CAN'T TAKE ANY MORE DAYS OFF.
BUT EVEN THOUGH WE'RE SEPARATED, I PRAY THAT YOU'RE HAPPY.
TRULY, I WISH YOU A HAPPY LIFE.
NATSUKO...I WAS A TERRIBLE FATHER TO YOU. I HURT YOUR YOUNG HEART OEEPLY, ANO I ABANOONEO MY RESPONSIBILITY TO RAISE YOU.

NATSUKO, WERE YOU CRYING IN SORROW BECAUSE OF WHAT BECAME OF THE CHILD WHO SHARES YOUR NAME?
OR WAS IT SOMETHING DIFFERENT? SOMETHING IMPORTANT?
SPAM?
I'M GOING TO SCHOOL!
WATCH OUT FOR CARS
I KNOW, DAD. I'M IN HIGH SCHOOL NOW.
HMM?
I GOT THIS WEIRD EMAIL SOMETIME LAST NIGHT..
WHAT?
MAYBE... HMM.
WHAT'S THE...

これはあなたのクラス全員で行ってもらう王様ゲームです。

王様の命令は絶対なので24時間以内に行って下さい。

※途中棄権は認められません。

[King's Game - Origin] END